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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 6, 2008

Hon. Charles E.F. Millard
Director
Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation
1200 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Director Millard,

I write to support the appeal of hundreds of former employees of Republic Technologies International (RTI), a steel company that declared bankruptcy in 2001 and terminated its pension plans for employees in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, New York, and Pennsylvania in 2002. Although the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) assumed immediate control of the terminated RTI pension plan, final benefit determinations were not made until this year. It is my understanding that the RTI group has filed its appeal with the PBGC and that the RTI/USS-Kobe group anticipates filing its appeal in the coming weeks.

As a result of those final benefit determinations, these retirees now face significant decreases in monthly benefit payments through no fault of their own. Already forced to rely on reduced retirement income, their problems are compounded by a recoupment policy that has left many of them in debt to the PBGC. These hard-working men and women thought their pensions would see them through their retirement years; instead they are struggling to make ends meet.

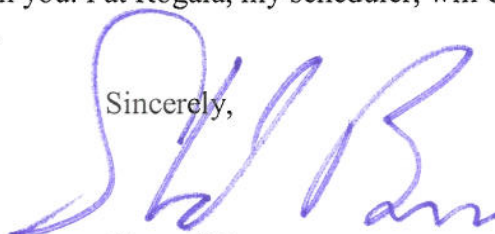
In July, I sent a request to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to investigate PBGC's process for making final benefit determinations. The GAO has begun this study.

It is my understanding that retirees who, within the 45-day period from receiving notice, filed an appeal on their own behalf, and/or signed a designation of representation form for an appeal to be filed on their behalf will not have their benefits cut until the appeal is settled. Those who missed the deadline will likely have their benefits cut soon, if they have not been cut already.

While former employees may have received notice of their appeal rights, I ask that the PBGC consider suspending benefit cuts for retirees who failed to file a timely appeal. The worsening economic conditions warrant temporary measures that may help families manage finances. Since the appeal itself will affect all retirees whether they filed an appeal or not, I ask that this consideration be made for those who missed the deadline.

I would like to discuss this matter with you. Pat Rogala, my scheduler, will contact your office to arrange a convenient time for this conversation.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator